

## **Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility**

# **Cabot Performance Materials**

**Beaver Run Road  
Revere, PA 18953  
Congressional District 8  
EPA ID #: PAD014512388  
Last Updated 6-10-05**

## **Current Progress at the Site**

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In February 2002, all plant activities were sealed and equipment was sold and removed from the Cabot Performance Metals site. All existing buildings are in the process of being either demolished or cleaned. When cleanup process is finalized, the facility will begin sampling soils and surface water on the site. All wastes at the facility were residual wastes, thus the site will be cleaned under the PADEP, Act 2 "Land Recycling Program." EPA and PADEP will be evaluating the Sampling Report data when it will be available. Should releases be identified, EPA will determine if an additional facility investigation and/or additional clean-up measures are necessary to protect human health and the environment.

## **Site Description**

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The Cabot Performance Metals site (formerly Penn Rare Metals) is located approximately 0.75 miles southeast of the unincorporated village of Revere at 377 Beaver Run Road in Nockamixon Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The facility ceased all production activities in February 2002.

The facility property includes seven acres of land on the east side of Beaver Run Road and another 95 acres on the west side of the road where the plant buildings are still located. The facility property borders by Rapp Creek on the west, State Game Lands on the northeast, and by wooded land, open fields, and a few private residences along Beaver Run Road to the east and southeast.

The site was originated in 1959 with the relocation of Penn Rare Metals from Horsham, Pennsylvania. Penn Rare Metals practiced beryllium extraction on 5 acres out of 100 acres of land. According to the Preliminary Assessment of Penn Rare Metals dated August 1986, the site was storing hazardous waste for less than 90 days at a time, and consequently, the facility was "only a generator of hazardous waste." Also for a few years a pilot plant, Echo Chemical Company, was reclaiming copper from the electronic industries etching wastes on the side. The founder of Echo Chemical Company abandoned the plant in 1984, due to financial difficulties. Echo Chemical Company was an open-air facility with a roof and no walls. There were tanks situated on a 50x50 foot concrete pad located west of the office building. The concrete pad was lately used by Cabot for storing wood pallets and for parking vehicles. Cabot Corporation's Revere, PA plant activities were sealed in February, 2002. The latest activities at the plant included metal refinery operations resulting in production of cesium, rubidium, and germanium

salts, as well as germanium oxides, germanium tetrachloride, tellurium metals, and niobium alloys. The products were also included ferro-columbium and nickel-columbium. These alloying materials are used in production alloy steels of various grades suitable for use in jet engines.

All wastes at the facility were residual non-hazardous wastes. Only the pH level of the acid wastes was monitored according to the PADEP inspection report of October 1992. Non-contact cooling water used for the germanium tetrachloride and cesium production was discharged to a fire pond and then to Rapp Creek through an NPDES permitted discharge.

In 1960<sup>th</sup> some ore for the plant was shipping in from Brazil. That ore had a high concentration of uranium. A contaminated sludge was stored in a few areas at the facility under the PADEP, Bureau of Radiation Protection (BRP) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) supervision. According to the dose assessment at the site, dated November 1997, and March 2001, the “remediation on the site was not necessary.” No decommissioning activities were required to allow license termination under current, 2001, NRC criteria. On September 5, 2001 the site was removed from the NRC License. The NRC authorized “release of land for unrestricted use” at the Cabot, Revere site.

Surface water discharges to the northwest into a drainage ditch that drains into Rapp Creek. Approximately 2 miles south of the Cabot, Revere site Rapp Creek runs into Tinicum Creek. Rapp Creek and Tinicum Creek are protected under Pennsylvania Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards for the maintenance and/or propagation of fish species. A groundwater (GW) and surface water investigation of 1986 included sampling of two drinking water wells, sampling of Rapp Creek (upstream and downstream from the plant), collection of samples from 8 private wells within 1500 feet of the plant. No contaminants were detected in any of samples collected in 1986.

A soil samples, stream, industrial well, and home well samples were collected in 1988 and 2004. Lead and copper were detected in on-site soils in 1989. The facility is currently removing and disposing of the excavated materials from the site. All buildings that were selected for demolition and foundations of the buildings have been removed. The office building and large garage are only two buildings left on the property. All contaminated soils will be cleaned-up. Analytical results of excavated materials from the site and further characterization of the site will be submitted to EPA as evidence that human health and the environment in the area are protected.

## **Site Responsibility**

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RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3 with assistance from the State.

## **Institutional Controls**

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Institutional controls are not required at this time.

## Government Contact

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EPA Project Manager

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: [www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm)

## Facility Contact

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